

**Harvard Workshop on the Economics of the Clean Air Act
In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Act**

Joseph Aldy and Robert Stavins, Co-Chairs

January 8, 2021

1:00 – 4:00 pm U.S. Eastern Standard Time

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Harvard Environmental Economics Program will conduct a Workshop on the Economics of the Clean Air Act on January 8, 2021. Participants are primarily economists who have conducted research on environmental policy, most on issues directly related to the Act. Three general topics will be covered: (1) the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of the Act over the past 50 years, i.e., its cumulative benefits and costs, with focus on specific sections of the Act, where possible: criteria air pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and transboundary air pollutants (SO₂ and acid rain); (2) the evolution and efficacy of specific policy instruments utilized, including performance standards, technology standards, and market-based instruments (largely emissions trading); and (3) business left unfinished by the Clean Air Act, with a focus on climate change and environmental justice. The workshop will include two brief presentations on each topic, with most of the time left for structured discussion.

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Agenda

1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and Self Introduction

Joseph Aldy and Robert Stavins, Harvard University

Environmental Effectiveness and Economic Efficiency

1:15 – 1:25 Maureen Cropper, University of Maryland

1:25 – 1:35 Janet Currie, Princeton University

1:35 – 2:05 Discussion

Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness of Policy Instruments

2:05 – 2:15 Richard Schmalensee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2:15 – 2:25 Meredith Fowlie, University of California, Berkeley

2:25 – 2:55 Discussion

2:55 – 3:05 Break

Unfinished Business – Distributional Impacts and Environmental Justice

3:05 – 3:15 Jonathan Colmer, University of Virginia

3:15 – 3:25 Kyle Meng, University of California, Santa Barbara

3:25 – 3:55 Discussion

3:55 – 4:00 Closing

Bibliography

Aldy, Joseph E., Maximilian Auffhammer, Maureen Cropper, Arthur Fraas, and Richard Morgenstern. 2020. "Looking Back at 50 Years of the Clean Air Act." *Journal of Economic Literature*, in press. August. Previous version online: National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 26697. January 27, 2020. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26687>.

Colmer, Jonathan, Ian Hardman, Jay Shimshack, and John Voorheis. 2020. "Disparities in PM2.5 Air Pollution in the United States." *Science* 369 (6503): 575–78. July 31. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaz9353>.

Currie, Janet, John Voorheis, and Reed Walker. 2020. "What Caused Racial Disparities in Particulate Exposure to Fall? New Evidence from the Clean Air Act and Satellite-Based Measures of Air Quality." National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 26659. January 20. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26659>.

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Fowlie, Meredith. 2010. "Emissions Trading, Electricity Restructuring, and Investment in Pollution Abatement." *American Economic Review*. 100 (3): 837-69. <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.100.3.837>

Hernandez-Cortes, Danae, and Kyle C. Meng. 2020. "Do Environmental Markets Cause Environmental Injustice? Evidence from California's Carbon Market." National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 27205. May 25. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w27205>.

Schmalensee, Richard, and Robert N. Stavins. 2019. "Policy Evolution under the Clean Air Act." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 33 (4): 27–50. November. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.33.4.27>.